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BOROUGH OF HARWICH

Annual Report

FOR 1955

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector

Casey & Cox, Printers, 43, Victoria Street, Dovercourt, Essex

BOROUGH OF HARWICH

HEALTH DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health :

J. ROLAND HETHERINGTON,
L.R.C.P. and S.E., L.R.F.P., and S.G., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector :

A. E. PRICE, CERT. R.S.I., and S.I.J.E.B.

HEALTH COMMITTEE

JANUARY—MAY

Chairman : Councillor J. P. Benstead

Alderman E. Gant, Councillors Mrs. H. W. Brennan, Miss E. N. Gross, Mrs. L. Hoenig, S. C. Simmons, Mrs. E. M. Smith.

JUNE—DECEMBER

Chairman : Councillor J. P. Benstead

Councillors E. Gant, Miss E. N. Gross, S. C. Simmons, Mrs. E. M. Smith, A. G. B. Stooke.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE **MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH** FOR THE YEAR 1955

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE BOROUGH OF HARWICH

Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Annual Report for the year 1955 is herewith presented for your perusal. This is drawn up in accordance with the Ministry of Health Circular 17/55.

Salient parts, to which particular attention is respectfully directed include the following :

(a) The birth rate is lower than at any time since 1934, whilst the death rate is the lowest ever recorded.

(b) The present position of the battle against tuberculosis is worthy of comment. Modern methods of diagnosis, mass radiography, and investigation of contacts lead to the earlier recognition of the complaint. This together with the outstanding improvements in treatment have robbed this disease formerly known as the "White Plague" of much of its terror.

(c) The development for residential purposes of land from Hall Lane eastward emphasizes the necessity for the early provision of adequate sewerage in this area.

(d) The problem of the housing conditions in the old part of Harwich is still unsolved ; the passage of time increases the urgency of the matter. The slowness of progress is due largely to the legal and financial problems presented.

It gives me much pleasure to record the help given by the Members of the Council, and also the assistance from the Area Health Committee, the Hospital Board and similar bodies. Likewise I wish to place on record the help and co-operation of the Officials of the Borough, and the continued loyal support of each of the members of the Health Department.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J. ROLAND HETHERINGTON,

Medical Officer of Health.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
Town Hall, HARWICH.
October, 1956.

ANNUAL REPORT 1955

SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

The area of the Borough is 1,512 acres.
The Population (census 1951) was 14,069
Estimated 1955 ... 15,310
Number of Dwelling Houses 4,329
Rateable Value, £96,229
Sum represented by a Penny Rate, £365 12s. 4½d.

1. LIVE BIRTH RATE

	M	F	Total
Live births, legitimate	89	109	198
,, ,, illegitimate	6	8	14
Total live births	95	117	212
Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population ...		13·85	
Corrected birth rate		15·10	
(Comparability Factor 1·09)			

2. STILL BIRTHS AND INFANT MORTALITY

	M	F.	Total
Still births	5	1	6
Still birth rate per 1,000 population	0·39		
Still birth rate per 1,000 births	27·52		
Deaths of infants under one year ...	4	1	5
Death rate of infants under one year per 1,000 live births ...	23·59		

TABLE I

INFANTILE MORTALITY, 1955

Cause of Death	Did not Survive one week	Lived over one week but less than four weeks	Survived one month, died under one year	Total
Prematurity	1	—	—	1
Birth injuries	—	—	—	—
Malformations	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis and Pneumonia	—	—	1	1
Gastro Enteritis	—	—	—	—
Other causes	2	—	1	3
	3	—	2	5

3. DEATH RATE

	M	F	Total
Deaths during year	62	62	124
Crude death rate per 1,000 estimated population	8·1		
Corrected death rate ... (Comparability factor 1·07)	8·68		

The principal causes of death during the year were :—

Diseases of Blood and Circulatory System (15, 17, 18, 19, 20 and 21)	74
Cancer, all forms (10, 11, 12, 13 and 14)	21
Respiratory Diseases (excluding Tuberculosis) ... (23, 24 and 25)	7
Tuberculosis, all forms	3

These groups together account for nearly 85% of the deaths in the Borough.

TABLE II

Deaths at various ages during 1955

Under 1 year	5
1 and under 2	—
2 and under 5	—
5 and under 15	2
15 and under 25	2
25 and under 35	3
35 and under 45	7
45 and under 55	12
55 and under 65	18
65 and under 75	39
75 and upwards	36
	124

From these figures it will be noted that nearly 30% of the deaths occurring during the year were of people of 75 and over.

TABLE III

	Causes of Death	M.	F.	Total
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	0	2	2
2	Tuberculosis, other	1	0	1
3	Syphilitic Disease	0	0	0
4	Diphtheria	0	0	0
5	Whooping Cough	0	0	0
6	Meningococcal infections	0	0	0
7	Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
8	Measles	0	0	0
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	0	0	0
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	0	1	1
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	2	0	2
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast	0	0	0
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	0	1	1
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	10	7	17
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	2	3
16	Diabetes	1	1	2
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	9	15	24
18	Coronary Disease, angina	10	5	15

	Causes of Death	M.	F.	Total
19	Hypertension with heart disease ...	2	3	5
20	Other heart disease	9	13	22
21	Other circulatory disease	1	4	5
22	Influenza	0	0	0
23	Pneumonia	1	0	1
24	Bronchitis	6	0	6
25	Other diseases of respiratory system ...	0	0	0
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	2	1	3
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	0	0	0
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	0	1	1
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	0	0	0
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	0	0	0
31	Congenital malformations	1	0	1
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	2	4	6
33	Motor vehicle accidents	2	0	2
34	All other accidents	2	1	3
35	Suicide	0	1	1
36	Homicide and operations of war ...	0	0	0
		62	62	124

TABLE IV

Vital Statistics (1954 and 1955)

	England and Wales		Essex		Harwich	
	1954	1955	1954	1955	1954	1955
Birth Rate (*a*) ...	15·2	15·0	14·5	14·3	16·87	15.10
Death Rate (*a*) ...	11·3	11·7	9·7	10·1	9·75	8·7
I.M. Rate (*b*) ...	25·4	24·9	21·1	22·1	21·18	23·59

(*a*)—Per 1,000 civilian population
(*b*)—Per 1,000 live births

TABLE V

Vital Statistics for 1955 and certain previous years

Year	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infant Mortality Rate
1920	31·1	11·6	81
1925	20·2	10·6	50
1930	16·9	10·3	48·5
1935	16·4	10·1	47·8
1940	15·26	12·67	42·45
1942	21·38	12·39	36·31
1943	18·99	13·07	39·11
1944	28·7	11·72	54·43
1945	21·78	12·45	36·86
1946	23·64	12·89	52·6
1947	24·2	12·88	28·0
1948	18·7	10·1	47·0
1949	19·6	10·05	30·1
1950	15·3	9·1	8·1
1951	15·08	10·07	23·04
1952	16·6	9·0	25·42
1953	14·8	11·04	27·8
1954	16·87	9·75	21·18
1955	13·85	8·1	23·59

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

(a) Staffing

(i) The Medical Officer of Health for the Borough holds a similar appointment to the Harwich Port Health Authority. In addition, he is a School Medical Officer and an assistant County Medical Officer to the Essex County Council, and V.D. Medical Officer to North East Metropolitan Hospital Board. Furthermore, he holds the appointment of Medical Inspector of Aliens.

(ii) Sanitary Inspector — The Sanitary Inspector carries out all the duties imposed by statute, including the inspection of shops. In addition he holds the post of inspector under the Shops Act, 1934. He also carries out the necessary duties under the Rat and Mice (Destruction Act), 1919, and is appointed to carry out inspections under the Housing Acts. In co-operation with the Borough Engineer and Surveyor he supervises the Scavenging of the district.

(b) Laboratory Facilities

Pathological specimens including those connected with V.D. are dealt with at the Laboratory, Essex County Hospital, Colchester.

Samples of water are sent to the Counties Health Laboratories, Victoria Street, London, S.W.I. Other samples of food, ice-cream, etc., are dealt with at the Public Health Laboratory, Woodbridge Road, Ipswich.

(c) Health Services provided by the Essex County Council acting as Local Health Authority

(1) Ante Natal Clinic.

During the year 52 sessions were held at 38, Main Road, Harwich, 165 expectant mothers made a total of 236 attendances. In addition to the Medical Officer and Health Visitors, the District Nurse/Midwives practising in the area attend ; the presence of the latter is exceedingly valuable and is much appreciated.

The fall in attendances is accounted for by a smaller number of births which occurred. There is also a greater tendency for expectant mothers to be supervised by the person who, at a later date, will be present at the confinement. This is a practise to be commended.

During the year 80 confinements took place at home and 132 in hospital.

The proportion of confinements at home and in hospital during the past five years is as follows :—

	Home Births	Hospital Births
1951	35%	65%
1952	38%	62%
1953	31%	69%
1954	36%	64%
1955	38%	62%

With the exception of 1953 (where a high proportion of hospital births were due to accommodation difficulties following the flood), these figures show that the proportion of hospital confinements remain steady.

It is more than 5 years since reference was first made to the desirability of maternity hospital accommodation in the Borough. Unfortunately, this need has not as yet become a reality.

(2) **Midwives and District Nurses.**

A satisfactory liaison has been maintained with the District Nurse/Midwives, who are on the staff of the County Council.

(3) **Infant Welfare Clinics.**

Throughout the year sessions of Infant Welfare Clinics were held weekly. At the Harwich Clinic, 242 children made 1,695 attendances ; at Dovercourt, 302 children made 1,890 attendances. At both Clinics the work was greatly helped by an efficient and dependable body of voluntary workers, and it is with pleasure that this opportunity is taken of placing on record their helpful service.

During the year supplementary foods and medicaments were supplied as was necessary—infant foods at just over cost price, medicaments free of charge.

Proprietary Brands of Dried Milk	...	615 pkts.
Cereal Foods	...	279 pkts.
Other Foods	...	285 pkts.

The medicaments included proprietary vitamin preparations (Adexolin, Bemax, Cod Liver Oil Emulsion, etc.), some of which were supplied to children of school age.

From the 1st April distribution of Welfare Foods—formerly distributed through the office of the Ministry of Food—was undertaken by the W.V.S. at their newly opened centre at 280 High Street. Welfare Foods can be obtained there on certain days in addition to being available at the Infant Welfare Clinics.

During the year Welfare Food distribution comprised :—

National Dried Milk	...	8,476 tins
Cod Liver Oil ...	...	2,085 bottles
Orange Juice ...	...	13,124 bottles
Vitamin Tablets ...	...	1,023 pkts.

(4) **Health Visiting.**

It would appear from the frequent references in appropriate quarters that the work of Health Visiting is at length coming to be recognized at its true value and the statement that the Health Visitor is probably the most important member in the Health Service Staff is not wide of the mark.

It is the Health Visitor who by the tactful dissemination of her knowledge of preventive medicine and hygiene provides the human touch to a service which is largely made up of soulless statistics and irritating regulations. The Health Visitor is frequently called in for advice not only regarding the care of infants (for which purpose the service was first initiated), but for countless other domestic problems.

Her sympathetic words can often achieve much more than many tablets and much medicine and certainly more than official circulars and leaflets.

During the year some 3,000 visits were paid to the various homes in the Borough, apart from those calls upon the elderly infirm and visits to children of school age.

(5) **Home Helps.**

While the service has been maintained throughout the year, the opinion has been expressed in several quarters that there would be greater efficiency if it were administered locally. As the service is operated at present, there is frequently considerable delay in supplying a suitable Home Help just at the moment when such service is most essential. At present there are 22 registered Home Helps operating in the Borough.

(6) **Provision of nursing equipment and apparatus.**

This most welcome service is undertaken by the Joint Committee of the British Red Cross Society and St. John Ambulance Brigade, of whom the secretaries are Miss Noal (B.R.C.S.), 12 Fronks Avenue, Dovercourt; Mrs. Lewis (S.J.A.B.), 6 Station Road, Dovercourt and Mrs. Rowland (S.J.A.B.), 15 Main Road, Harwich.

(7) **Vaccination and Immunisation.**

(a) Vaccination against Smallpox.

During the year 124 children were vaccinated against Smallpox as compared with 45 during 1954. Of this number, 67 vaccinations were carried out at the L.H.A. Clinic and 57 by the G.P.'s. Thus, between 50% and 60% of the children under one year of age are protected against Smallpox. While the increase compared with previous years is a matter for gratification, it is highly desirable in the town which is exposed to the importation of infectious diseases from the Continent, that nothing less than 100% protection can really be regarded as satisfactory.

(b) Immunisation against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough.

(1) Diphtheria :

Primary Injection		
L.H.A.	141	
G.P.	69	210
Boosting Dose		
L.H.A.	145	
G.P.	9	154

(2) Whooping Cough :

Primary Injection		
L.H.A.	83	
G.P.	41	124
Boosting Dose		
L.H.A.	—	
G.P.	—	

(c) Vaccination against Tuberculosis.

As a result of investigations by the Medical Research Council and on the request of the Ministry of Health, B.C.G. Vaccination against tuberculosis was offered to children of 13 years of age. The reasons for selecting this particular age were :—

(1) The high incidence of tuberculosis found in the 15 to 25 year age group, with the desirability of confering a degree of immunity at the commencement of this decade.

(2) It is advisable to retain under observation for at least a year those children who have been vaccinated.

Accordingly, B.C.G. Vaccination was offered to 128 children. Of this number 106 (nearly 83%) accepted, and were accordingly given a preliminary mantoux skin test. 74 of these proved mantoux negative of whom 73 received B.C.G. Vaccination. The whole procedure was performed without any untoward incidence, and thanks is due to the willing co-operation given by the Headmasters and staffs in the Harwich Grammar School and Dovercourt Hill Secondary Modern School.

(8) **Ambulance Service.**

The Ambulance Service continues to function from the new station at River View, on the western border of the Borough where two vehicles (one for stretcher cases and one for sitting cases) are maintained.

When necessary the service is supplemented by other ambulances from Colchester, Clacton and Frinton. In addition considerable use is made of the Volunteer Car Service, a much appreciated body of helpers who give many hours of service, often at short notice.

The aim is to ensure that every patient requiring an ambulance is given a service which is prompt and adequate. On the other hand, a close watch is maintained to prevent any abuses—patients who can use normal means of public transport are not in general entitled to be conveyed by ambulance.

(9) **School Heath Service.**

This service continued to function throughout the year without any outstanding incidence. 633 children underwent a routine medical examination and 875 had a follow-up examination for defects previously discovered.

The nutrition of the children in general is satisfactory as indicated :—

Nutrition	A	(Good)	258	40·8 per cent
,,	B	(Normal or slightly inferior)	372	58·7 per cent
,,	C	(Poor) ...	3	0·5 per cent

The defects most frequently found were associated with faulty vision or orthopaedic. These two groups account for 70 per cent of the children referred for treatment and 60 per cent of those listed "to be kept under observation". Next in order of incidence were defects of ear, nose and throat (including tonsils); 16 per cent of the children referred for treatment were in this group and 13 per cent of those for observation.

During the year 433 chlldren attended the school clinic. It is significant that whereas a decade ago skin infections (Impetigo, Ringworm, Septic Sores, etc.) constituted a large proportion of the complaints referred to the clinic, such conditions are now much less in evidence. Many of the children who now attend are brought for consultation by the parents. This is a commendable feature of the School Health Service and may be regarded as an indication of an increased interest taken by parents in the physical and mental well being of their children.

The ancillary services continued throughout the year in spite of staffing difficulties. In particular, it is felt that there is a need for an extention to the school dental service.

The orthopaedic, physiotherapy and ophthalmic services continue under the control of the Hospital Board. There is, however, a very close and satisfactory liaison.

(d) Health Services provided by the Hospital Board

(i) Harwich and District Cottage Hospital.

This is a G.P. Hospital, containing some 30 beds. Consultants from Colchester and other neighbouring towns attend the hospital at specified times.

(ii) Tuberculosis Service.

(a) Chest Clinic.

This has continued to function throughout the year, great importance being attached to the effective supervision of all contacts of cases of active tuberculosis.

During the year there were 3 deaths from tuberculosis. Two of these were pulmonary and had been notified in the one case, 20 months, and in the other 7 years previously. There was also one death due to tubercular meningitis in an infant.

(b) Mass Miniature Radiography.

The third biennual campaign was undertaken in June and July.

The number of persons examined (compared with previous campaigns) was :—

	1951	1953	1955
Adults	3056	2120	2298
School children	393	444	416
Total	3449	2564	2714

	1951	1953	1955
Parkeston Quay	587	703	720
Bernards	211	213	212
Other Firms	347	388	321
Public Sessions	1146	816	1045
School children	393	444	416
Total	2684	2564	2714
Referred to chest clinic	20	15	2

The number of persons examined in Harwich compares favourably with other parts of the County. The co-operation of Directors and Management of some of the firms in the area is much appreciated. The increase in the number who attended the Public Sessions is also gratifying. The small proportion of patients referred to the Chest Clinic is encouraging but must be considered in conjunction with the number of cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified during the year.

When the next campaign is undertaken—probably in the late spring of 1957—efforts should be made to secure an attendance of the employees from more firms in the town, and also maintain the good response to the Sessions for the members of the general public. "If your lungs are healthy it is good to be reassured : if they are not, it is best to find out at the earliest treatable stage."

(iii) Venereal Disease.

It is gratifying to report a continued decline in the incidence of infection. All contacts are as efficiently investigated as possible.

SECTION C

SANITARY CONDITIONS

(1) Water Supply

Water is supplied to the whole of the Borough by the Tendring Hundred Waterworks Company. This water is issued by their Pumping Station at Dedham. The following are some interesting figures supplied by the Company.

The quantity of water supplied to the district (which includes Ramsey, Little Oakley and Parkeston) for the year under review amounted to 219,992 million galls.

The total amount taken for domestic purposes was 164,005 million galls.

The total amount for trade purposes was 55,987 million galls.

During the year 455 yards of new main were laid in the Borough and some 500 yds of main have been renewed.

The following are Chemical and Bacteriological Analyses:

DEDHAM WORKS — WATER ANALYSES

Chemical Results in Parts per Million

	1955	
	Maximum	Minimum
Colour	Nil	Nil
pH	7·8	7·5
Electric Conductivity ...	910	780
Chlorine present as Chlorides ...	144	112
Hardness. Total	285	275
Carbonate ...	260	255
Non-carbonate ...	25	20
Nitrate Nitrogen	0·3	0·0
Ammoniacal Nitrogen ...	0·33	0·0
Albuminoid Nitrogen ...	0·00	0·00
Metals. Iron (other metals absent)	0·24	0·06
Turbidity	Less than 3	Nil
Odour	Nil	Nil
Free Carbon Dioxide ...	12	6
Total Solids	600	505
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	265	250
Nitrite Nitrogen	0·01	Absent
Oxygen Absorbed ...	0·25	0·00
Residual Chlorine ...	0·25	0·12

Bacteriological Results

No. of Colonies developing on Agar.

1 day at 37°C	2 days at 37°C	3 days at 20°C
0 per ml.	0 per ml.	0 per ml.

	Present in.	Absent from.	Probable No.
Presumptive Coli-aerogenes Reaction	– ml.	100 ml.	0 per ml.
Bact. coli. (Type I)	– ml.	100 ml.	0 per ml.
Cl. welchii Reaction	– ml.	100 ml.	

REMARKS

These samples are practically clear and bright in appearance, have a reaction on the alkaline side of neutrality and are free from metals apart from a minute trace of iron. The water is hard in character but its hardness and its content of mineral and saline constituents in solution are not excessive. It conforms to the highest standard of organic quality and bacterial purity.

These are satisfactory results indicative of a water which is pure and wholesome in character and suitable for public supply purposes.

All samples were analysed by the Counties Public Health Laboratories.

The above facts and figures have been provided by the courtesy of W. A. Burrows, Esq., M.I.Mech.E., M.I.W.E., Chief Engineer to the Tendring Hundred Waterworks Company.

(11) Sewerage and Drainage

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

Water Closets	5,610
Pail Closets	30
Houses with cesspool drainage ...	75

It will be noted that the number of houses depending on cesspool drainage is increasing. This figure will increase until such time as the extension to the Brookman's Farm Sewerage System is continued eastward towards the centre of the town, as it would appear that considerable development will take place from now on in the area of the Borough between Hall Lane and The Drive. It is to be hoped that the coming into operation of this section of the sewerage system will be accelerated, due to the fact that cesspool

drainage is at the best, unsatisfactory for modern houses with hot water systems, wherein the occupiers make full use of bathing facilities, etc.

(III) Scavenging

Household refuse is collected weekly, together with all types of salvage, by direct labour, and is disposed of by controlled tipping on land to the north of the sea wall at Dovercourt Beach during the winter and during the summer months on British Railway land to the north of the Hangings.

Uncontrolled Dumping

For many years it has been the habit of a section of the community throughout the town to use vacant plots for dumping all their unwanted materials, ranging from garden waste to old bedding and furniture. It cannot be too strongly emphasized that the Borough maintains an adequate refuse disposal service and **ALL RESIDENTS** should be aware that the Authority will make a special collection of any household refuse of a bulky nature such as old furniture, bedding, etc., but **not** of garden waste or building debris. Much of the garden refuse which is dumped on vacant sites could easily be composted (even in the smallest garden) and returned to the soil.

Salvage

The following is the weight of Salvage collected and sold during the year, and the figures for 1954 are shown for comparison.

	1954					1955				
	T.	C.	£	s.	d.	T.	C.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper	86	16½	651	15	11	98	3¼	863	14	8
Metals		12¾	78	2	6		8¼	64	0	6
Rags and Sacking ...	5	13¾	147	7	4	3	13¾	142	13	0
Kitchen Waste ...			15	12	6					
Condemned Meat ...		2	7	15	0					
	93	5	£900	13	3	102	5¼	£1070	8	2

IV. Disinfection

The steam disinfecting plant at the Old Isolation Hospital Depot was used 68 times and in addition 72 premises were fumigated.

V. Pest Destruction

During the year 1,006 rats were trapped and 9 wasps nests destroyed. In addition 110 dogs were dealt with in the Humane Electrocuting Cabinet. The operation of this unit is undertaken by volunteers who are fully insured by the R.S.P.C.A.

VI. Sanitary Inspection of the Area

	Nature of inspection	Total Visits
1	Drainage	22
2	Infectious Diseases	10
3	Housing inspection (including Slum Clearance)	247
4	Tenancy applications	86
5	Verminous premises	3
6	Rat and mice destruction	84
7	Food inspection	192
8	Bakehouses	15
9	Factories	28
10	Disinfections	72

SECTION D

HOUSING

Erection of New Houses

The following table covers the period from the cessation of hostilities :

	1946 to 1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	Total
Erected by Council								
—Houses	129	31	27	29	47	119	35	417
—Flats		36	26	4	12		43	121
Erected by Private Enterprise—Houses	27	9	9	5	31	38	79	198
—Flats							3	3
	156	76	62	38	90	157	160	739

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

1. Food Shops.

Frequent visits are made to all shops where food is stored or for sale. These premises are found to be kept in a clean condition and comply with the regulations.

Foodstuffs codemned during 1955

Wet Fish	
Cod Fillets	6 stone
Kippers	7 stone
Smoked Fillets	4 stone
Melts	2 stone
Herring	1 stone
Meat	
Bacon	12½ lbs.
Corned Beef	18 lbs.
Ham	69½ lbs.
Duck	1 no.
Pig	1 no.
Tinned Meat	
Pork Luncheon Meat	47 tins
Ham	9 tins
Stewed Steak	9 tins
Jellied Veal	6 tins
Corned Beef	24 tins
Tongue	2 tins
Calves Liver	1 tin
Tinned Fish	
Pilchards	4 tins
Crab	4 tins
Milk	
Full Cream	41 tins
Evaporated	25 tins
Cream	5 tins

Other Tinned Foods

Fruit (various)	141 tins
Tomatoes	50 tins
Baked Beans	52 tins
Pineapple	8 tins
Blackcurrants	10 tins
Peas	12 tins
Oranges	2 tins

Other Foods

Cheese	245 lbs. 9 ozs.
Pontefact Cakes	28 lbs.
Coconut	24 pkts.
Oats	4 pkts.
Bananas	38 stalks

11. Bakehouses.

There are six bakehouses in operation, and frequent inspections are made. All premises are kept in a clean condition. There are no underground bakehouses in use in the Borough. Gradually the baking of bread is ceasing throughout the Borough owing to the packed and cut loaves now being placed on the market by factory bakehouses.

III. Meat Inspection.

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Goats
Number killed (if known)	51	—	—	24	263	1
Number inspected	51	—	—	24	263	1
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci :						
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis only :						
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	1	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	--	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	0·38%	—
Cysticercosis :						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

IV. Factories Act — Outworkers.

There were only 11 outworkers in the area during the year. These were employed mainly on making kid-gloves, and few of them continue the work for other than very short periods.

TABLE VI

FACTORIES ACT — INSPECTIONS

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	29	12	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	12	10	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority* (excluding out-workers' premises)...	8	6	—	—
TOTAL	49	28	—	—

*i.e. Electrical Station (Section 103 (1)). Institutions (Section 104) and sites of Building Operations and Works of Engineering Construction (Sections 107 and 108).

TABLE VII — FACTORIES ACT — DEFECTS

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Reported to Inspector
Want of cleanliness (S.I.)	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2.)	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.)	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.)			—
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—
TOTAL	—	—	—

SECTION F

Notifiable Infectious Disease

In contrast with the previous year when over one hundred cases of Infective Jaundice were notified only one case occurred in 1955. Measles was again present during the early part of the year and, as for some years past was of a benign type. There were also a number of cases of Whooping Cough in the late summer.

Seven cases of Poliomyelitis were notified in the autumn of the year of which five were paralytic; two cases were not confimed. In addition two patients were admitted to hospital suffering from Poliomyelitis but the disease was not reported to the Health Department. Any attempt to find the source of infection and to prevent the spread of Poliomyelitis is greatly hampered if the Health Department is not promptly informed. The active co-operation of members of the household in which the illness occurs can be of considerable help—indeed Section 144 of the Public Health Act, 1936, places the responsibility of reporting the occurrence of infectious diseases on the head of the patients family as well as on the Medical Practitioner called in.

With regard to the incidence of Tuberculosis, the death rate has fallen from 0·504 per 1,000 population in 1945 to 0·196 in 1955. This is due to several factors, not least being the improved methods of diagnosis and the more extensive range of antibiotics available for treatment.

On the other hand, the incidence of notification continues at the same high level. In part this is doubtless due to the more thorough follow-up of all contacts. It may, however, be claimed that progress in prevention has been slower than progress in curative results.

During the past four years, the incidence of notification has been localised in the different wards as follows :—

	1951 population	No. of notified cases of T.B.
East Ward	3,758	16
East Central Ward	2,712	7
West Central Ward	2,936	19
West Ward	4,663	5
		47

As to housing conditions, of the 47 notified cases, two were living under housing conditions that could be described as "very good". Nine were in good class property, twenty-four lived in average (Council House) accommodation. In the case of eight, the conditions were poor, while four other cases came from "slum" or "near slum" property.

Some degree of overcrowding was present in nine cases and also in three other suspected (but not confirmed) cases.

A history of tubercular infection in other members of the family in the household, was fully established in nine cases and suspected in six others. Both overcrowding and family history were present (or suspected) in five cases.

However, persistent efforts have been made to improve the housing conditions of Tuberculosis patients who are given a high degree of priority in the allocation of Council House accommodation. The statistics given above relate to the housing conditions at the time of notification and it is gratifying to know that in all those cases where the accommodation was unsatisfactory, some definite amelioration has been achieved—usually by re-housing.

TABLE VIII

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality during 1955

Age	New Cases Notified During Year						Deaths During Year					
	Pulmonary		Meninges & C.N.S.		Other		Pulmonary		Meninges & C.N.S.		Other	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25	4	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
45—55	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
55—65	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ..	9	4	—	—	3	—	—	2	1	—	—	—

TABLE IX

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1955

Total Cases Notified

DISEASE	AGE IN YEARS									Total
	0-1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65-	
Scarlet Fever	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	3
Whooping Cough	5	7	10	10	—	—	—	1	—	33
Acute Poliomyelitis, Paralytic...	—	1	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	5
Acute Poliomyelitis, Non-paralytic	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	2
Measles	4	24	22	29	—	—	—	—	—	79
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Acute Pneumonia	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	5	—	8
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis, Post-infectious	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis, Infective ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	3
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Infective Hepatitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1

TABLE X

MONTHLY NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES DURING 1955

DISEASE	JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APR.	MAY	J'NE	J'LY	AUG.	SEP.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.	Total
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	3
Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	9	10	11	2	—	—	33
Acute Poliomyelitis, P'lytic	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	1	—	5
,, ,, Non-paralytic	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	2
Measles	30	14	9	5	—	2	7	5	7	—	—	—	79
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Acute Pneumonia ...	—	—	5	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	8
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis, Inf'ct've	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
,, ,, Post-Infectious	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Paratyphoid Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	3
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	—	—	1	2	1	2	2	—	1	1	1	2	13
,, Meninges & C.N.S.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
,, Other	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Infective Hepatitis ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1

TABLE XI

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND TUBERCULOSIS CASES NOTIFIED DURING THE PAST TEN YEARS

(Figures in parenthesis indicate Number of Deaths during each year)

	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Scarlet Fever	17(0)	15(0)	4(0)	5(0)	2(0)	5(0)	73(0)	29(0)	2(0)	3(0)
Whooping Cough	12(0)	13(0)	42(0)	1(0)	3(0)	24(0)	—	57(0)	4(0)	33(0)
Acute Poliomyelitis, Paralytic	—	2(0)	1(0)	3(0)	—	1(1)	—	2(1)	1(0)	5(0)
Acute Polio, Non-paralytic					—	—	—	—	—	2(0)
Measles	8(0)	7(0)	274(0)	2(0)	214(0)	91(0)	242(0)	80(0)	180(0)	79(0)
Diphtheria	1(0)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	1(0)	—	3(0)	1(0)	2(0)	1(0)	4(0)	14(0)	—
Meningococcal Infection ...	—	3(0)	1(0)	—	—	2(0)	—	—	6(0)	1(0)
Acute Pneumonia	3(0)	17(1)	10(5)	3(5)	—	2(0)	—	6(4)	1(2)	8(1)
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis, Infective ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis, Post-infectious	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fever ...	—	—	—	—	1(0)	—	1(0)	2(0)	3(0)	1(0)
Paratyphoid Fever ...	—	1(1)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1(0)
Erysipelas	2(0)	2(0)	—	—	1(0)	—	3(0)	4(0)	4(0)	3(0)
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2(0)	5(0)	—
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	12(5)	12(6)	6(1)	13(4)	4(3)	8(5)	9(3)	14(0)	6(0)	13(2)
Tuberculosis, Meninges & C.N.S	—	—	—	—	—	1(0)	—	—	—	0(1)
Tuberculosis, Other ...	3(1)	1(0)	1(0)	2(0)	3(0)	4(1)	4(0)	—	2(0)	3(0)
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	2(0)	1(0)	—	1(0)	1(0)	1(0)	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	1(0)	1(0)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Infective Hepatitis	5(0)	—	1(0	3(0)	2(0)	7(0)	1(0)	12(0)	101(0)	1(0)

METEOROLOGICAL — STATISTICS 1955

The Borough Engineer and Surveyor has kindly supplied the following Meteorological Statistics:—

TABLE XII

SUNSHINE AND RAINFALL, 1926—1955

Year	Sunshine Hours	Rainfall Inches
1926 ...	1625.1	20.78
1927 ...	1551.6	20.57
1928 ...	1906.8	24.50
1929 ...	1816.2	22.80
1930 ...	1726.5	23.65
1931 ...	1614.3	17.35
1932 ...	1437.6	19.52
1933 ...	1908.4	15.67
1934 ...	1792.0	19.57
1935 ...	1910.0	24.75
1936 ...	1617.4	23.39
1937 ...	1554.1	27.50
1938 ...	1780.9	27.50
1939 ...	1773.7	29.92
1940 ...	1816.5	20.76
1941 ...	1426.5	22.14
1942 ...	1631.0	23.70
1943 ...	1858.5	16.65
1944 ...	1649.0	22.74
1945 ...	1584.3	19.77
1946 ...	1701.9	25.92
1947 ...	1853.8	19.39
1948 ...	1750.8	18·67
1949 ...	1930.6	17.83
1950 ...	1649.8	22.87
1951 ...	1684.5	28.11
1952 ...	1722.7	24.32
1953 ...	1530.7	15.61
1954 ...	1436.2	19.35
1955 ...	1703·2	19.26

TABLE XIII

TEMPERATURES

MONTH	MEANS				HIGHEST		LOWEST	
	Dry	Wet	Max.	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.	Min.
January	35.5	35.1	40.3	32.0	51	42	35	17
February... ...	34.7	34.2	39.8	32.0	53	42	33	23
March	38.3	36.3	44.0	35.0	59	42	34	26
April	50.18	46.58	55.7	41.0	66	49	46	34
May	50.09	47.4	57.8	44.0	66	50	51	34
June	57.4	54.4	64.0	50.9	74	58	55	41
July	62.6	58.9	69.5	51.3	79	61	63	48
August	65.5	62.5	71.5	57.0	76	63	66	47
September ...	58.1	55.4	67.0	51.4	79	62	62	43
October	49.6	48.3	56.6	43.1	66	54	47	31
November ...	44.9	43.6	49.1	40.7	53	51	45	33
December ...	35.7	40.8	48.2	37.4	57	46	40	26

TABLE XIV

BRIGHT SUNSHINE

	Hours	Daily Average	Number of Sunless Days
January	34.2	1.1	20
February...	79.8	2.8	5
March	167.7	5.4	2
April	171.5	5.7	2
May	184.8	5.96	2
June	187.2	6.24	1
July	238.8	7.7	1
August	210.8	6.8	1
September	168.9	5.6	1
October	140.2	4.5	7
November	55.9	1.86	11
December	51.4	1.6	11

TABLE XV

RAINFALL

	Total Fall in inches	Greatest fall in 24 hours	Date
January	2.17	.54	4th
February...	1.97	.58	4th
March	1.27	.28	23rd
April	0.13	.04	4th & 7th
May	2.58	.51	16th
June	1.90	.57	3rd
July	0.11	.06	17th
August	1.65	.70	15th
September	1.30	.68	22nd
October	4.01	1.91	21st
November	0.57	.29	2nd
December	1.60	.36	8th